

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 222725

21-12
ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY:NEA TASK FORCE:SEWARD:KHA
APPROVED BY:NEA TASK FORCE - STEPHEN E. WARD
NEA/IRN - MR. MORTON - DOD/ISA:MR. PEYER
JCS - COLONEL FREELAND - S/S-O:MISS ELTZ

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O 141005Z NOV 73 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 222725

EXDIS TOSEC 411

FOLLOWING STATE 222725 SENT ACTION TEHRAN INFO LONDON JIDDA
PEKING DOD/ISA JCS CNO CINCPAC CINCPACFLT CMDR NSC RPT
TO YOU QTE

S E C R E T STATE 222725

EXDIS TOSEC 411 ZFF4 TO PEKING ONLY

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TOSEC NUMBER OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:MARR, IR
SUBJECT: USS HANCOCK TASK GROUP

REF: TEHRAN 7888

1. ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THAT IRANIANS WOULD PREFER TO
CHARTER A NON-U.S. FLAG TANKER TO CONDUCT REFUELING OF
HANCOCK TASK GROUP, AS POINTED OUT IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF REFTTEL,
THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT. WE ARE INFORMED THAT AT PRESENT
THERE ARE TWO EMPTY TANKERS AT BANDAR MASOUR, THE ESSO
SEATTLE AND SANDY LAKE. THESE TWO SHIPS ARE UNDER TIME
CHARTER TO MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND.

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2. IF IRANIANS WISH TO CHARTER THEM, MILITARY SEALIFT
COMMAND WILL DROP THEIR TIME CHARTER AND THUS IRANIANS COULD
PICK UP ONE OR BOTH OF THESE SHIPS ON A SPOT CHARTER BASIS
TO SUPPORT TASK GROUP. AN ADDITIONAL BENEFIT FROM USE OF

THESE SHIPS IS THAT WE UNDERSTAND THEY ARE RIGGED SO THAT THEY CAN ACCOMPLISH UNDERWAY REFUELING OF COMBATANT SHIPS IN HANCOCK TASK GROUP. REQUEST YOU INFORM IRANIANS OF AVAILABILITY OF THESE TWO TANKERS, SHOULD IIN WISH TO USE THEM.

3. IF IRANIANS WISH TO ADOPT THIS APPROACH, MILITARY SEA-LIFT COMMAND SHOULD BE INFORMED SOONEST OF DETAILS SO THEY CAN TERMINATE THEIR CHARTER AT APPROPRIATE TIME.

4. THEREFORE REQUEST YOU ADVISE RESULTS OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS ASAP SO DOD CAN BE REQUESTED TO HAVE MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO RELEASE SHIPS IF IRANIANS WISH TO USE, OR OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO USE THEM UNDER PRESENT TIME CHARTER. RUSH UNQUOTE RUSH

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